

RANGERS

U.S. Army's 75th Ranger Regiment

Joel B. Paskauskas II

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The Ranger Creed

Recognizing that I volunteered as a Ranger, fully knowing the hazards of my chosen profession, I will always endeavor to uphold the prestige, honor, and high "esprit de corps" of my Ranger Regiment.

Acknowledging the fact that a Ranger is a more elite soldier who arrives at the cutting edge of battle by land, sea, or air, I accept the fact that as a Ranger my country expects me to move further, faster and fight harder than any other soldier.

Never shall I fail my comrades. I will always keep myself mentally alert, physically strong, and morally straight, and I will shoulder more than my share of the task, whatever it may be, one hundred percent and then some.

Gallantly will I show the world that I am a specially selected and well-trained soldier. My courtesy to superior officers, neatness of dress and care of equipment shall set the example for others to follow.

Energetically will I meet the enemies of my country. I shall defeat them on the field of battle for I am better trained and will fight with all my might. Surrender is not a Ranger word. I will never leave a fallen comrade to fall into the hands of the enemy, and under no circumstances will I ever embarrass my country.

Readily will I display the intestinal fortitude required to fight on to the Ranger objective and complete the mission, though I be the lone survivor.

RANGERS LEAD THE WAY!

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GRANT OF ARMS

By authority of the Secretary of the Army, the Institute of Heraldry, United States Army gives, grants, and assigns unto the 75th Infantry (Ranger) on June 28, 1974, the arms following:

Blazon

Shield: Quarterly azure and vert, between the first and fourth quarters a radiant sun of twelve points and a mullet argent, a lightning flash coupled bend sinisterwise gules fimbriated or.

Crest: On a wreath of the colors argent and azure, issuing in back of an embattlement of a tower with six merions or a pedestal gules supporting a clinthe affronte of the third in front of a toteau within an annulet of the second.

Motto: Sua Sponte (of their own accord). The original Marauders, like today's Rangers, were all volunteers.

Symbolism

The Shield: The colors blue, white, red, and green represent four of the original six combat teams of the 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional), commonly referred to as "Merrill's Marauders," which were identified by color. To avoid confusion, the other two colors, khaki and orange were not represented in the design; however, khaki was represented by the color of the uniform worn by the United States in the China-Burma-India Theater during World War II. The unit's close cooperation with the Chinese forces in the China-Burma-India Theater is represented by the sun symbol from the Chinese flag. The white star represents the Star of Burma, the country in which the Marauders campaigned during World War II. The lightning bolt is symbolic of the strike characteristics of the Marauders' behind-the-line activities.

The Crest: The organization's service in the China-Burma-India Theater of World War II is represented by the clinthe (a gold Burmese lion). The blue annulet symbolized the Presidential Unit Citation awarded for service at Myitkyina Burma, the "gateway to China." The gold embattlement in base refers to the unit's combat services in Vietnam, while the six merions represent six Valorous Unit awards; the two Meritorious Unit Commendations earned by elements of the Regiment are denoted by the scarlet disc at center.

INTRODUCTION

The term Ranger has been in the English language lexicon for the last several hundred years. It can be traced as far back to the Middle Ages when rangers protected the forests of the English kings. A ranger could be defined as a highly mobile soldier/frontiersman skilled in fieldcraft and very familiar with the outdoors that is able to operate/strike quickly in small groups in deep into enemy territory. To "range" described the type of movement of early soldiers when they patrolled an area. Thus these soldiers that ranged the countryside and beyond earned the name Rangers. Probably the most famous Rangers early on were Major Robert Rogers during the French and Indian Wars and Francis Marion the "Swamp Fox" during the American Revolution. In fact Major Robert Rogers' 19 Standing Orders are still adhered to by today's high-tech Airborne Rangers. Much has been scribed about the history of the Rangers, but suffice is to say that they have fought and died in almost every conflict the United States has engaged in. From the King Phillips War to the cliffs of Point du Hoc on Utah Beach to the bloody streets of Mogadishu, Rangers have lead the way and will continue to do so into the future.

The 75th Ranger Regiment is the premier light infantry unit in the world. The Regiment is a key player in the US Army Special Operations Command (USASOC) which in turn is a component of the United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM). The 2,300 men that make up the Regiment's three battalions and headquarters element are highly trained and motivated Airborne and Ranger qualified infantrymen. The Ranger Regiment has the highest priority for all types of support that the US Army has to offer. This ensures that it is always at the cutting edge of readiness and preparedness. A little known fact is that the 75th Ranger Regiment costs the Army as much as an entire Infantry Division.

The Regiment brings to the USSOCOM table the ability to provide a responsive strike force with the ability to conduct these missions at night. The Regiment can be fully loaded and in the air within a matter of hours to deploy to any location in the world where it has been determined that a US military presence is required. The Rangers can get there by air, land or sea and can operate alone for up to five days if need be. A Ranger Force is normally employed as a part of Joint Special Operations Task Force (JSOTF). The Ranger Regiment provides a worldwide, strategically responsive strike force with a highly lethal ground combat capability. It can also serve as a Flexible Deterrent Option to show US national resolve by immediately committing military power on land into a threatened area.

The Ranger Regiment is a unique light infantry unit. Its specially selected, equipped and trained infantrymen provide the President of the United States of America the capability to rapidly deploy an elite military force anywhere in the world. The 75th Ranger Regiment is unique in many ways. It performs specific missions in support of other special operations forces. Its mission taskings differ in degree of risk. They can operate in complex joint environments, with restrictive rules of engagement, at night, in politically sensitive environments, causing minimal collateral damage. Operations in and around urban areas are their forte. The Regiment uses cutting edge technology, operational techniques and methods of infiltration and employment. Ranger units are not designed for sustained combat operations. They have a limited logistical capability and indirect fire support means and no support vehicles or heavy weapons systems. They are not normally assigned to missions that can be done by conventional light infantry units (such as current peacekeeping operations in Kosovo). They often deploy to take part in joint

and combined training exercises with allied or friendly military forces.

The mission of the Ranger Regiment is to plan and conduct special operations and light infantry operations in any operational environment. The primary special operations mission of the Regiment is Direct Action or DA. DA operations conducted by the Rangers may support or be supported by other special operations forces. They can conduct these missions alone or in conjunction with conventional military operations. Rangers can also operate as special light infantry when conventional light infantry or airborne forces are unsuited for or unable to perform a specific mission. In fact modern day Rangers conduct basically the same types of missions their forebears conducted three hundred years earlier.

Ranger Direct Action ops are normally deep penetration raids or interdiction operations against targets of strategic or operational significance. Typical DA missions for Rangers include forced-entry operations and/or the capture or destruction of such targets as NBC weapons storage sites, radio and television stations, key logistical centers, airfields, bridges just to name a few. Other operations that the Rangers specialize in are rescue and evacuation missions, special light infantry operations and tactical reconnaissance.

Ranger units can conduct either deliberate or quick-response operations. Deliberate operations are just that, they require detailed planning, deception, reconnaissance, and rehearsals and are carried out with violent execution. Quick response operations such as in Mogadishu are conducted to prevent an enemy reaction to the Ranger force in the objective area or to take advantage of a window of opportunity for a perishable target. These operations are conducted when there is not enough time for detailed planning and

preparation. Such missions will often have a radical impact on the entire theater of operations. An example of such an operation that the Rangers have undertaken would be the "snatch and grab" operations in Somalia during Operation Restore Hope and seizing Torrijos Tocumen Airport in Panama during Operation Just Cause.

The 75th Ranger Regiment is the force of choice for swift, daring direct action missions. It can also conduct offensive Direct Action (DA) operations against targets of strategic or operational value to achieve theater campaign or major operational objectives. Ranger offensive operations include airfield seizures and other key facilities, performing raids, conducting air movement operations using special operations aviation (SOA) and evacuating non-combatants. Rangers accomplish these missions with speed, surprise and violent execution. And they can do it with very restrictive rules of engagement, under the ever prying eye of the international media all the while striving to reduce collateral damage and noncombatant casualties.

The 2,300 men of the 75th Ranger Regiment are organized into a regimental headquarters and Headquarters Company and three Ranger battalions. The regimental headquarters is made up of the regimental commander and his staff. The commander has a deputy commander, executive officer, five primary staff sections and a special staff. The special staff consists of a signal officer, fire support officer, surgeon and staff judge advocate. An Air Force staff weather officer, a TACP (tactical air control party), a Marine Corps air and naval gunfire liaison company (ANGLICO) and a tactical airlift officer (TALO) are permanently attached.

The Headquarters Company consists of a company headquarters, which includes the company commander and his administrative and support staff. The Headquarters Company commands, controls and

supports its assigned and attached elements. Elements assigned to the Headquarters Company include the FSE or fire support element which coordinates all available fire support such as mortars, artillery, close air support, armed helicopters and naval gunfire. The communications platoon, reconnaissance detachment and medical team are all assigned to the Headquarters Company.

The Ranger battalion consists of a battalion headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC) and three Ranger companies. With some support, the battalion can conduct independent combat operations. The Battalion HHC includes a fire support team (FIST), signal section, medical section and support platoon. An Air Force TACP is permanently assigned to the battalion. The Ranger rifle company is made up of a company headquarters and three platoons and a weapons platoon. The weapons platoon is armed with light mortars, Ranger Anti-Armor Weapons, Javelin anti-tank guided missiles (ATGM).

When needed the Regiment organizes special purpose teams to conduct critical missions. These teams include scout swimmer teams to conduct operations along coastlines, waterways and inland waters; Military Free Fall (MFF) teams to conduct HALO parachute infiltrations; demolition teams to use advanced demolition and incendiary techniques and air defense teams to use Stinger man portable air defense systems (MANPADS).

The strategic responsiveness of the Ranger Force gives the President of the United States a credible combat capability for protecting vital US interests and citizens without having to wait for international support or guarantees of non-intervention. The Ranger Force is first through the door when the US undertakes a forcible entry operation. To wit, Rangers are expert urban warriors. Most of their training takes place at night, as would most of their missions. They are equipped with

the latest greatest night vision and target acquisition devices. Light, medium and heavy mortars are part of the Ranger Regiment and provide devastating fire support. The light and medium mortars are air deployable meaning that a team Ranger jumps with the mortar system. Some Rangers are tasked as snipers also and provide an awesome and devastating force protection and precision shooting capabilities to the force package.

Training is vitally important in keeping the Regiment razor sharp. The Ranger Regiment trains twelve months of the year except for two two-week periods of block leave each year. This leave is vitally important to each and every Ranger as it gives him time to unwind and relax from the demanding training schedule. Also each of the battalions within the Regiment have no post support requirements such as working or guard details. The Regiment conducts training all over the world in the various climates that they might have to fight in such as arctic, jungle, desert and mountain terrain and climates. Amphibious training of all types is also practiced on a frequent basis. These extreme-training areas continuously challenge each Ranger. And as if that was not enough, Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercises (ERDEs) and Joint Readiness Training Exercises (JRXs) are part of the training regimen. This rigorous training regimen produces the most mentally alert and physically capable soldiers in the Army.

If not in a training mode, the three battalions take their turn being the Ranger Ready Force or RRF. While a battalion has the responsibility for the RRF, all of its troops and equipment can be assembled, loaded and ready to deploy within 18 hours. One company of Rangers is always capable of deploying within nine hours. Each time the "no-notice" alert is initiated via a vast array of pagers, each and every Ranger realizes that what may look like an ERDE on the face, may actually be the call to go to war. This readiness posture breeds a mind set within the

Regiment of "we are ready NOW."

The current focus within the regiment is what is known as the "Big 4." The "Big 4" are four different core, fundamental skills that each and every Ranger from the private to the colonel within the Regiment should be intimately familiar with. They are marksmanship, battle drills, medical training and physical training. For example, the goal for marksmanship is for every Ranger to be able to score a first round hit on a target at 300 meters with a lethal hit at night, and for a first round hit on a moving target at night at 250 meters.

Presently in the United States Army, a young man can actually get a guaranteed enlistment option to become a Ranger. That of course is easier said than done. Once through basic training and Infantry School, this infantryman is off to three weeks at the Airborne School at Fort Benning, Georgia. After that this airborne infantryman is posted to one of three current active duty Ranger battalions. Once there it is time for three weeks of the Ranger Indoctrination Phase. RIP as it is known in Ranger circles, must be completed before you get to your battalion and it is no walk in the park. It prepares and assesses the soldier for the rigors of the Ranger School. Having successfully completed RIP, the soldier is posted to his battalion. Eight months are spent in the parent battalion before the final challenge in the quest to earn the coveted, black and gold and half-mooned shaped Ranger tab presents itself. This challenge is Ranger School.

Since 1951, the mission of the Ranger School has been to train combat arms company grade officers as well as non-commissioned officers in the art of patrolling and small unit combat skills. Ranger School is comprised of three different phases at three different locations in the southeastern United States. During this course, food and sleep are always at a premium. According to one Ranger "no amount of money could be offered for an MRE, every thing in the brown plastic bag was

eaten!" Hallucinations are common due to physical and mental exhaustion. One Ranger told me that he saw Big Bird from Sesame Street in a tree during one particular patrol!

Ranger candidates start out at the 4th Ranger Training Brigade at Fort Benning. From there they move on to the 5th RTB in Dahlonga, Georgia for mountain training. And finally to the 6th RTB at Eglin Air Force Base for jungle/swamp training. No rank is worn during Ranger School, it is of little consequence as all are expected to lead and follow at some point during this odyssey. Long forced marches as well as complex missions that involve detailed plans are also standard fare. The purpose of the Ranger School is to place soldiers in realistic combat environments, to teach them leadership skills and hone their combat techniques. This is achieved by placing students under extreme pressure that is in turn achieved by restricting food and sleep, imposing impossible time limits to accomplish mission.

Many thanks to the Rangers of the 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment and Carol Darby and Walter Sokalski Jr. of the US Army Special Operations Command Public Affairs Office. Without their assistance this book could not have come to fruition. This book is dedicated to all Rangers past and present, alive and deceased for their unwavering commitment to the defense of the United States of America.

MAJOR ROBERT ROGERS' 19 STANDING ORDERS

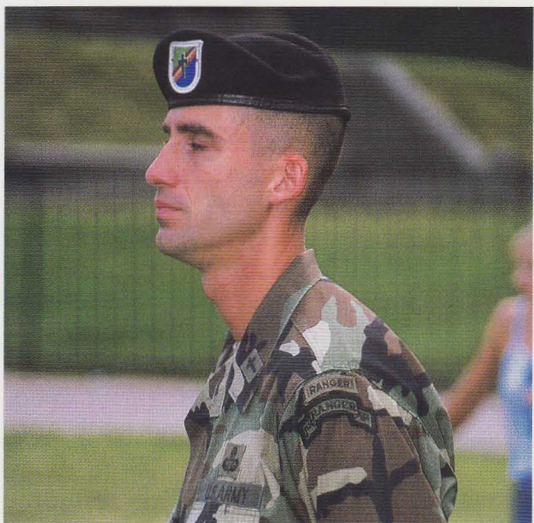
1. *Don't forget anything.*
2. *Have your musket clean as a whistle, hatchet scoured, sixty rounds powder and ball, and be ready to march at a minute's warning.*
3. *When you're on the march, act the way you would if you were sneaking up on a deer. See the enemy first.*
4. *Tell the truth about what you see and what you do. There is an army depending on us for correct information. You can*

lie all you please when you tell other folks about the Rangers, but don't never lie to a Ranger or officer.

5. *Don't never take a chance you don't have to.*
6. *When we're on the march we march single file, far enough apart so no one shot can go through two men.*
7. *If we strike swamps, or soft ground, we spread out abreast, so it's hard to track us.*
8. *When we march, we keep moving till dark, so as to give the enemy the least possible chance at us.*
9. *When we camp, half the party stays awake while the other half sleeps.*
10. *If we take prisoners, we keep 'em separate till we have had time to examine them, so they can't cook up a story between 'em.*
11. *Don't ever march home the same way. Take a different route so you won't be ambushed.*
12. *No matter whether we travel in big parties or little ones, each party has to keep a scout 20 yards ahead, 20 yards on each flank, and 20 yards in the rear, so the main body can't be surprised and wiped out.*
13. *Every night you'll be told where to meet if surrounded by a superior force.*
14. *Don't sit down to eat without posting sentries.*
15. *Don't sleep beyond dawn. Dawn's when the French and Indians attack.*
16. *Don't cross a river at a regular ford.*
17. *If somebody's trailing you, make a circle, come back onto your own tracks, and ambush the folks that aim to ambush you.*
18. *Don't stand up when the enemy's coming against you. Kneel down, lie down, hide behind a tree.*
19. *Let the enemy come till he's almost close enough to touch. Then let him have it and jump out and finish him up - with your hatchet.*

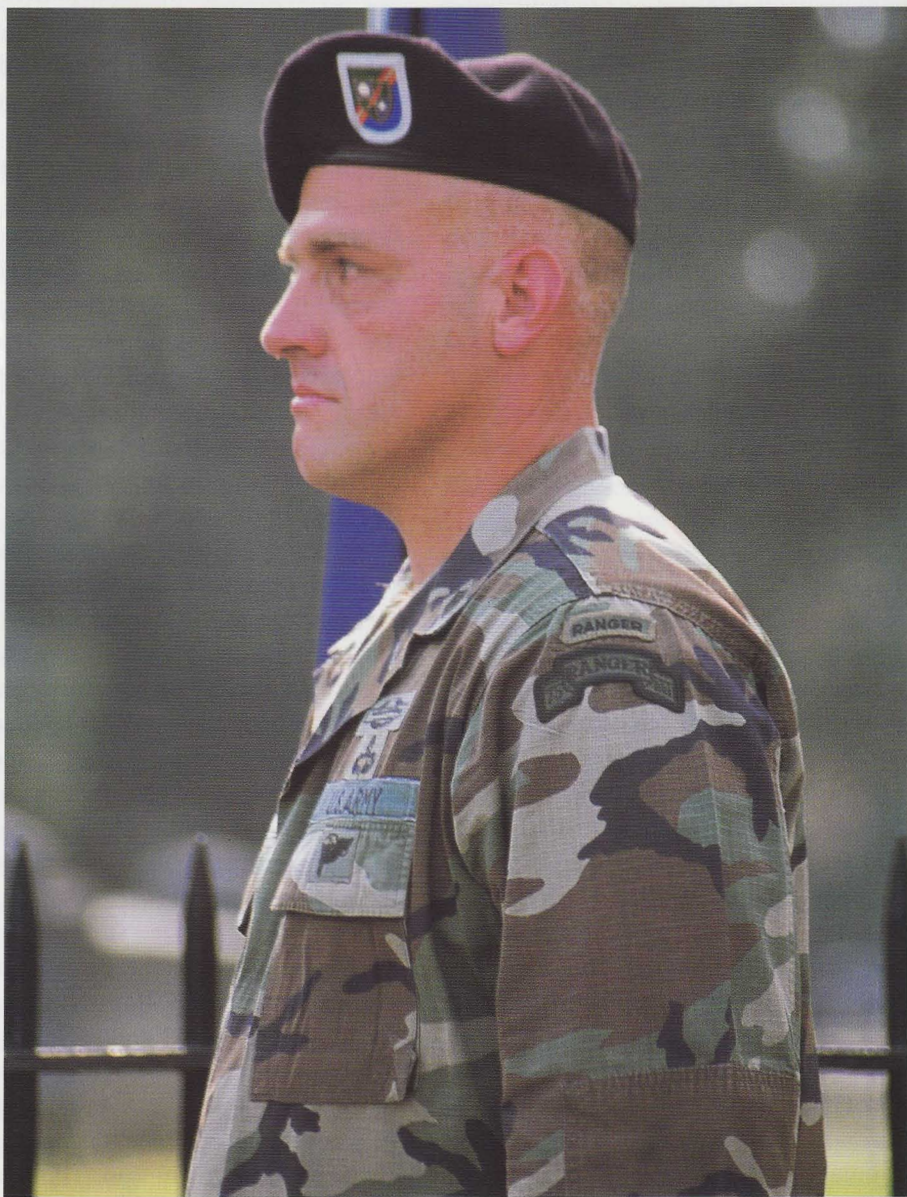


The commander of the 75th Ranger Regiment and the commander of the 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment along with his wife at a recent change in command ceremony. Full "bird" colonel commands the Regiment while, Lieutenant or "light" colonels command each battalion. The families, wives and girlfriends of the Rangers are incredibly sacrificial, dedicated and supportive of their loved ones.



The Ranger Chaplain. This minister of the Gospel is Ranger qualified and has earned his Master Parachutists badge. Ranger Chaplain goes where the Rangers go and do what they do in order to provide for their spiritual needs.

On the left is the outgoing commander of the 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, in the middle is the commander of the 75th Ranger Regiment and to his other side is the incoming 1st Battalion commander.



The United States Army Ranger, America's elite strike force.





A black bereted Ranger wearing highly starched battle dress utilities or BDU's as they are called. The black beret, long associated with the Rangers, was officially authorized for wear on December 20, 1978. This Ranger has earned his jump wings and expert infantry badge. Because they are an airborne unit they get extra money each month in jump pay.



A Ranger color guard during a recent change of command ceremony.



These Rangers are on parade with their M9 bayonet equipped M4 carbines. The M9 is the current issue bayonet to the US military. It also serves as a multi-purpose field knife. However, Rangers spend their own money to get a practical combat blade to suit their needs and desires.



A Ranger color guard. For this particular ceremony they are equipped with full size M16A2 rifles with bayonets fixed. Enlisted soldiers assigned to the Rangers go through RIP or Ranger Indoctrination Program. RIP assesses Ranger trainees on their physical qualification and indoctrinates them in basic Regimental standards.

Here a Ranger cook receives an award from the commanding general of the US Army Special Operations Command (USASOC) for being the top chef in the United States Army. This Ranger staff sergeant is a fully qualified airborne ranger. Note the unique uniform. Whether food or fighting they lead the way. (courtesy of 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment)



Here a quartet of Ranger officers pose for the camera. They are armed with the M9 pistol, which is the standard sidearm for Ranger officers. (courtesy of 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment)



Sergeant Major Leon-Guerreiro is a legend in the Ranger community. He wears combat glasses designed to withstand tough use by Rangers. (courtesy of 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment)

These Rangers have just earned their Thai jump wings and their fellow warriors from Thailand are pinning them on. Rangers get the opportunity to work with a variety of world's special operations forces when they train overseas. This Ranger has earned his scuba badge and is worn on the flap of his left upper BDU pocket. (courtesy of 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment)



Here General Hugh "Henry" Shelton, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS), greets a fellow Ranger enlisted soldier. General Shelton is wearing his "mess blues" along with a formal white shirt and black tie. These are authorized for wear year round for the most formal of events. The Ranger on the right wear his "greens" with bloused boots, a custom enjoyed by Rangers and paratroopers. (courtesy of 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment)



These Rangers have some tough duty posing with these true Southern Belles from Savannah, Georgia. The 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment is based at Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah, Georgia. They enjoy a close relationship with the denizens of the Hostess City of the South. (courtesy of 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment)



This RSOV is armed with the Mk.19 40mm automatic grenade launcher. The Mk.19 has an effective range of 2,200 meters, is belt fed and fires from the open bolt. It is an awesome force multiplier.

This version of the Ranger Special Operation Vehicle is designed to support the mortar section of each battalion. This RSOV features an on-board fire direction computer as well as storage racks for spare mortar rounds. Ranger mortar men provide deadly accurate high angle fire support to Battalion leadership.



A driver's side view of the Mortar SOV.



A head-on view of the MedSOV which is the slang term for the Ranger Special Operations Vehicle that has been specially designed to meet the needs of Ranger medics. Two litter patients can be transported on the hood and four patients in the rear. These custom vehicles can get their injured passengers to an aid station quickly and safely.



Another view of the MedSOV. Note the two litters on the front hood. The RSOV program began in 1989 as the Ranger Regiment was seeking a suitable replacement for their heavily modified M151A2 gun jeeps.



The MedSOV in action. Here an injured Ranger is evacuated to get more treatment.



Here two Ranger Special Operations Vehicles pause after a break in their arduous training regimen. The RSOV can be loaded onto Night Stalker MH-47 helicopters and can be slung loaded under MH-60's also.



This RSOV is equipped with a M2 .50 caliber machine gun mounted on top and a M240 on the front passenger side. Note that they are right-handed drive vehicles. The RSOV is a heavily modified British Land Rover Defender 110 and custom built to meet the tough requirements of the Rangers.



A left side view of the RSOV. Seven fully armed Rangers are aboard this RSOV, armed with a variety of weapons.



Rangers here are in the process of dismounting the M2 .50 caliber heavy machine gun from their RSOV. The 'Ma Deuce' was first produced by John Moses Browning back in 1921 and is still in use the world over. It weighs 84 pounds without the tripod. It is made in the United States by SACO Defense and in Belgium it is manufactured by Fabrique Nationale. (Walter Sokalowski, USASOC PAO)



This is the communications RSOV, also known as the "Shark." It is chock full of the latest communications gear available to the US special operations community. The equipment is so sensitive that the author was not allowed to photograph the interior of the Shark for obvious security concerns.



This Ranger acts as a scout while mounted on his bike. These motorcycles are equipped to run in blacked out mode with the driver wearing NVG's. On the handlebars is a bracket for stowing an M4 carbine.



A pair of Ranger all/extreme terrain cross country motorcycles. These can be airdropped attached to individual Rangers in padded airdrop bags lowered on a line before landing.



A brace of Rangers on motor bikes. "Bikes and Jeeps" as they are known as in the Ranger Regiment are grouped together in a single company in each battalion, usually Alpha Company.



An excellent view of a Ranger cross-country motorcycle that has been modified for use by these elite warriors. (Walter Sokalowski, USASOC PAO)



Here a Ranger is hunkered down behind his motorcycle with his M4/M203 carbine/grenade launcher, ready for action. Note the Ranger behind him with the RAAW. (Walter Sokalowski, USASOC PAO)



A Ranger machine gun team fast ropes from a Night Stalker MH-60L. Fast roping has replaced rappelling as a means to get Rangers quickly and efficiently on the ground.



This MH-60L is in the process of delivering a team of Rangers. Once over the drop zone, the coiled ropes are kicked out and Rangers jump on and slide down. After the Rangers have "roped in", crew members aboard the Blackhawk release the ropes and they fall to the ground.

A Night Stalker crew briefs a group of Rangers on flight safety procedures. This helicopter is the MH-60L and armed to the teeth with two 7.62mm General Electric GAU-2B Gatling guns.



A MH-47L disgorges a platoon of heavily armed Rangers. Training allows Rangers to make their mistakes in a relatively safe environment. So when the real mission comes, they will be trained up and ready to strike.

Rangers discuss a training mission with a crew of Night Stalkers. Throughout the year, Rangers train in arctic, desert, jungle and mountainous environments throughout the world.





Once out of the belly on the MH-47L, these Rangers move out to seize control of a simulated enemy airfield. Rangers are not used to conventional operations, such as peace keeping; thus they train extensively to perform specific special operations missions. They are the United State's best light infantry unit ready to go at a moment's notice.





A MH-6 Little Bird with a full complement of US Army Rangers on the running boards. (Walter Sokalowski, USASOC PAO)

These Rangers are briefed by the crew of a MH-47L Chinook of the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment also known as the Night Stalkers. The 3rd Battalion of the 160th SOAR(A) directly supports the Ranger Regiment.



With rotors still turning, Rangers file aboard a Night Stalker MH-47L. One of the missions of US Army Special Operation Aviation (ARSOA) is to insert, resupply and extract US special operations forces and designated personnel.



Ranger tasked as snipers provide the Regiment with awesome and devastating force protection and precision shooting capabilities. This Ranger looks through the telescopic sight on top of his SR-25 auto-loading sniper rifle.



The Stoner SR-25 rifle has recently been placed into service with the Ranger Regiment.



This Ranger sniper is equipped with the latest sniper weapon system. It is based on the Stoner SR-25 7.62mm caliber self-loading rifle.

This is one half of a sniper team, the observer. His weapon is a highly modified M4A1 carbine that features an ACOG scope and sound suppressor. The M4 96D suppressor fitted to this weapon is about six inches long and reduces the sound by about 32 decibels. The role of the observer is just that, to be an extra set of eyes on the target.



Whispering death.... A US Army Ranger with his hand made Ghillie suit armed with the M24 sniper weapon system (SWS). The M24 costs the Army about \$4,000 each. The costs includes the rifle, a scope, back-up iron sights, an airdroppable carrying case and a deployment kit containing spare parts required tools and cleaning equipment. Since its introduction it has undergone some upgrades.



The M24 Sniper Weapon System as used by the Rangers. The M24 replaced the M21, an accurized M14 self-loading rifle. The M24 is a modified Remington 700 bolt-action rifle that fires the NATO standard 7.62mm round. Note that this rifle had been painted desert tan.



Hunkered down behind the M82A1 heavy sniper rifle. The Barrett is a self-loading rifle with a ten-round box magazine. These weapons are fitted with an Ultra 10X M3A telescopic riflescope. Gamekeepers in their homeland first used the Ghillie suit in World War One by Scotsmen of Lovat's Scouts snipers, who copied suits made. Snipers must be able to blend in perfectly with their surroundings.



The Barrett M82A1 sniper rifle in the hands of a Ranger sniper. This awesome weapon is chambered in .50 caliber and this particular example sports a color scheme suitable for a desert environment. In addition to a telescopic sight, the M82A1 features back-up iron sights. Sniper school last six weeks and the Ranger Regiment has some of the best snipers in the entire Army.



The Barrett M82A1 heavy sniper rifle. Rangers train to jump with these massive weapons strapped to their bodies. Note the ten round magazine. Effective range on this weapon is 1,800 meters and can be used against people as well as vehicles.



A Ranger sniper team fully dressed up for a mission. Rangers attend sniper school at Fort Benning, Georgia. The school trains selected soldiers to engage point targets with long range precision fire and to train them in sniper fieldcraft techniques. (Fred Pushies)



This Ranger sniper takes some time to add local foliage to his Ghillie suit and drag bag. The sniper school also develops sniper doctrine and provides subject matter expertise to the Army. (Fred Pushies)



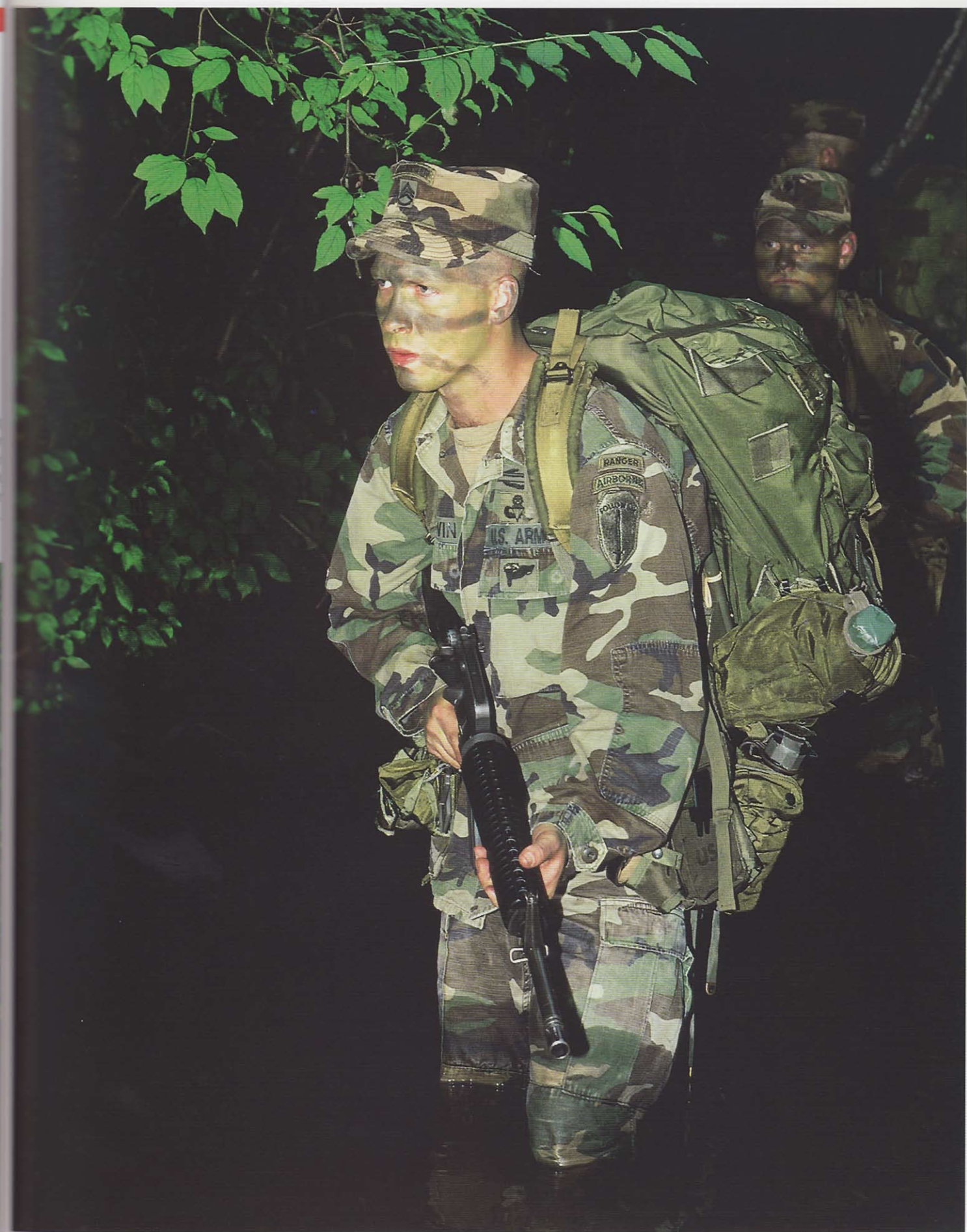
Here a Ranger sniper is barely visible through multiple layers of camouflage. Once completely hidden they are nearly invisible. Each Ghillie suit is as individual as its creator, whose life depends on its effectiveness. (Fred Pushies)



These Rangers are patrolling down a murky Florida river during Swamp Phase. Note the "catseyes" used on all combat headgear as well as rucksacks for stationkeeping on night patrol. (Fred Pushies)



With an M60 machine gun on the bow, half the squad has their weapons at the ready while the other half paddles toward their objective. (Fred Pushies)



Armed with an M16A2, this Ranger instructor moves silently through a Florida river. Note the subdued Master Parachutists wing and Pathfinder badge. Pathfinder School is three weeks long and is also based at Fort Benning. Pathfinders are trained to go in before the main drop and mark the dropzone for follow on troops. (Fred Pushies)



During the Florida or Swamp Phase, a Ranger squad prepares to launch their rucksack laden Zodiac boat. (Fred Pushies)



This Ranger Staff Sergeant is assigned to the Ranger Training Brigade at Fort Benning. Visible on his pocket is the Pathfinder qualification badge (a winged torch). Also of interest is a smoke grenade attached to the shoulder strap of his ALICE gear. (Fred Pushies)



These nine ultimate warriors make up a Ranger squad. Armed with an assortment of weapons from the M16A2 and M60, both of which are not in use with the Rangers. (Fred Pushies)



The shoulder sleeve insignia and accompanying Ranger tab are from the Ranger Training Brigade. The patch actually belongs to the Infantry School and the airborne tabs denotes the jump status of the unit. (Fred Pushies)



Using his survival signal mirror, this Ranger applies some camouflage cream to his face before a mission. (Fred Pushies)

The C-141 is another way that Rangers can deploy via parachute. During Operation Just Cause in Panama, Rangers jumped at 500 feet into Rio Hato military base. Normal peacetime jumps are done at 1,250 feet although practice jumps are made at 600 feet. In the United States, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) prohibits jumps less than 600 feet. (Hans Halberstadt)





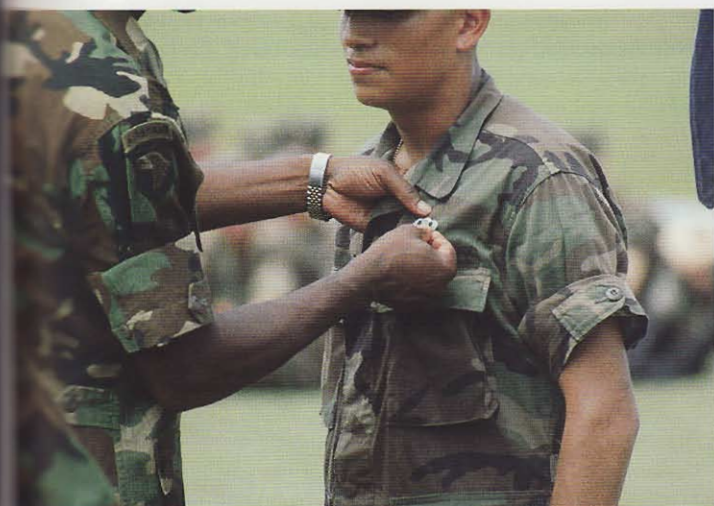
Airborne all the way! Here Rangers leap from the hold of a lumbering C-130 Hercules. In 1982 during the invasion of Grenada, from a height of 500 feet, Rangers leapt onto the airfield on the tiny island nation actually below the barrels of Cuban anti-aircraft guns! (Hans Halberstadt)



Practicing on the ground towers, this soldier gets his "knees in the breeze" sort of prior to doing the real thing out of an aircraft. The 1st Battalion, 507th (Airborne) Infantry Regiment runs the Basic Airborne Course for the US Army. (Hans Halberstadt)



On a rainy day this Ranger equipped with a T-10C static line parachute is suited up for a jump. He waits to get airborne on a C-130 Hercules. The airdrop the Rangers participated in during Operation Just Cause was the largest night combat jump since D-Day. (Hans Halberstadt)



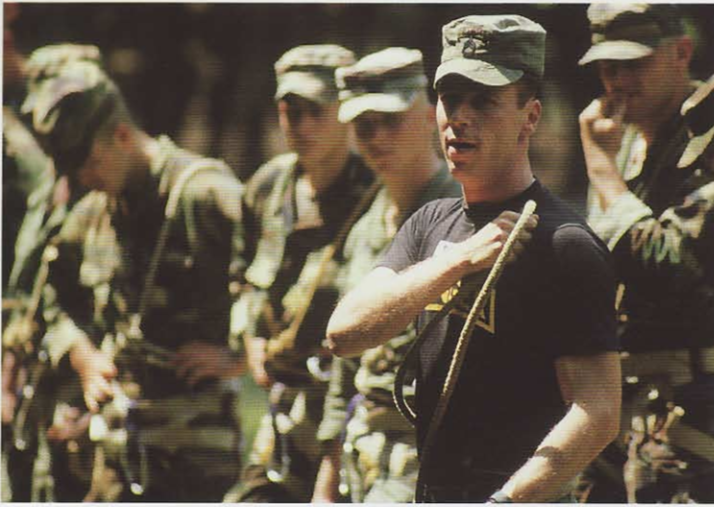
Part of the process to becoming a Ranger is earn the basic parachutist's badge or jump wings as they are more commonly referred to. The Airborne School lasts three weeks and is located at Fort Benning, Georgia. Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Airmen attend this course together. (Hans Halberstadt)



A milestone for many soldiers on the patch to earn their Ranger tab, the day they earn their wings. They go from being a "leg" (a non-Airborne qualified soldier) to a paratrooper (or a five jump chump as they are sometimes called). (Hans Halberstadt)



While not a Ranger, this rigger is more likely assigned to the 160th SOAR(A). He demonstrates the equipment worn when parachuting. Rangers use static line jumps as opposed to free fall jumps. Almost all jumps made by Rangers are conducted under the cover of darkness.



This Ranger instructor wears the favored OD M1951 Patrol Cap with the distinctive Ranger "crush." Their black berets are never worn in the field. (Hans Halberstadt)



Rappelling is an important training aspect for Rangers that takes place during the mountain phase. In order to pass this phase, students must demonstrate proficiency in mountaineering techniques as well as passing a knot test, belay and practice falls, two-man party climb, balance climb and direct aid climb. (Hans Halberstadt)



This modern image will no doubt bring to mind the exploits of Rangers scaling the cliffs at Point du Hoc on Omaha Beach during World War Two. Rangers will always lead the way. (Hans Halberstadt)

These hopefuls are lined up to learn the finer points of rappelling during Ranger school. Note the Swiss seats tied around their waists and the rescue 8 descenders. To get into Ranger School, soldiers must do at least 100 push-ups, 59 sit-ups, and 6 chin-ups with two minutes for each event. And they must run two miles in 15 minutes and 12 seconds or less. (Hans Halberstadt)



In the mountains of north Georgia, Rangers are put through their paces on the ropes. (Hans Halberstadt)

Rappelling Australian style. Aussie style involves rappelling headfirst over a cliff or out of a helicopter. It is a great confidence booster! (Hans Halberstadt)





Hand-to-hand combat figures into the grueling training regimen of the Ranger School. The Ranger Training Brigade is organized into four Ranger Training Battalions each tasked with a separate phase of the Ranger School. (Hans Halberstadt)



Here a Ranger Instructor "gets in the face" of a trainee. No doubt he is telling him to keep his hands up to protect his head during some pugilistic training. Instructors can inflict pain or pleasure (such as food and or sleep) as tools to teach his charges. (Hans Halberstadt)



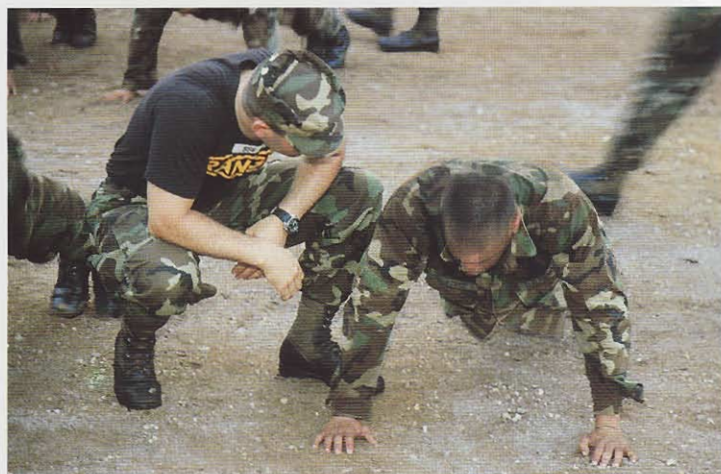
This Ranger demonstrates stealth and ease of movement. He is in the process of "removing" an enemy sentry with his fighting knife. (Hans Halberstadt)



Mortal Kombat Ranger style. Ranger training is for the mentally and physically fit. Only the strong survive this school. (Hans Halberstadt)



Here a captain of the Ranger Training Brigade demonstrates how to eliminate a sentry with a piece of nylon webbing. (Hans Halberstadt)



The push-up or front leaning rest, as it is lovingly known as by soldiers. Here a Ranger Instructor speaks some words of wisdom or encouragement to a Ranger hopeful. (Hans Halberstadt)



One way to get across a river, Ranger style. The Ranger Course is nine weeks long and divided into three phases: Benning Phase, Mountain Phase and Swamp Phase. (Hans Halberstadt)



This Ranger Instructor sports a black T-shirt emblazoned with the coveted Ranger tab. The Ranger tab was made official in October of 1950. The only other way to earn the tab: to have served in World War Two in Merrill's Marauders or one of the Ranger Battalions and have earned the Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB). (Hans Halberstadt)



Faces cammed-up, a group of Ranger candidates confer over a map about their next move.



The Rangers in this picture are on a training mission. Note the specialized load bearing vest the Ranger in the foreground is wearing. They are still wearing the obsolete OG107 patrol cap.



While a bit outdated, this Ranger wearing the much-liked OD jungle fatigues is "painting" or illuminating a target with a laser designator. Rangers can direct Army artillery fire support as well as Air Force air strikes and gunships like the awesome AC-130U "Spooky."



Thumbs-up, good to go says this Ranger. Note the massive large sized ALICE pack these Ranger hopefuls are "humping" or carrying on their back. To hump or humping is a vernacular term meaning to road march a long distance with a large load usually on one's back. (Hans Halberstadt)

These Rangers are SPIE (special purpose insertion extraction system) rigging beneath an UH-60 Blackhawk. SPIES has been replaced by FRIES or fast rope insertion extraction system. (Hans Halberstadt)

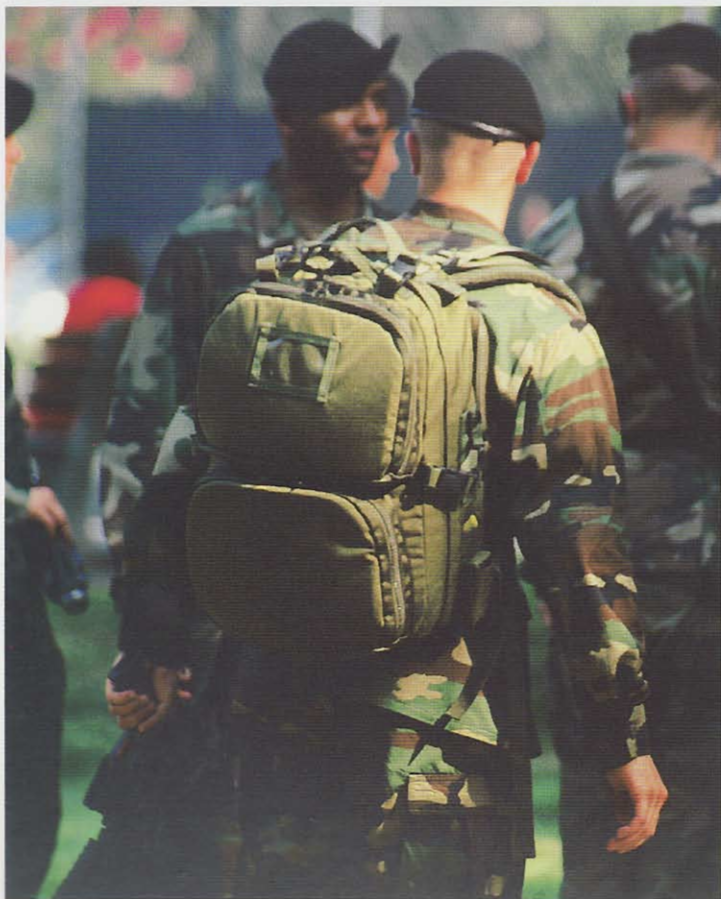




This Ranger medic shows off the front of load bearing vest. Ranger medics attend the 18 Delta or Special Forces Medic Course at the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Medics also earn the coveted Ranger tab.



A rear view of a Ranger medic's custom load bearing vest. He keeps all his commonly used items in the vest to keep them immediately available. As part of their training Ranger medics spend one month in New York City trauma centers to get some real time experience.



Here a Ranger medic works on a fellow Ranger stricken with heat exhaustion. Ranger medics train to perform all their life saving skills in darkness with the assistance of night vision goggles.

A Ranger medic shows off his medical backpack that they carry into combat. Ranger medics provide US standard of care anywhere Ranger forces are present. They also provide basic and advanced tactical combat casualty care to Rangers and other special warfare operators.



A Ranger steers his parachute into position for landing. (Fred Pushies)



The Rangers will keep a tight group as they land. This will assist them in keeping their formation once on the ground. (Fred Pushies)



A final check for the Drop Zone (DZ) prior to a HALO jump from a CH-47 Chinook. (Fred Pushies)



A sergeant from the 75th Ranger Regiment checks his map prior to a HALO jump. Note the strobe light attached to the rear of his Air Force flight helmet. Also note the altimeter strapped to his wrist to monitor his descent. Some Rangers are MFF or Military Free Fall qualified parachutists. (Fred Pushies)



This Ranger assigned to the Regimental Reconnaissance Detachment is safely on the ground after making a HALO jump. This detachment performs short-duration tactical reconnaissance to support the immediate needs of the Ranger force commander. Other specialized teams within the Ranger Regiment includes scout swimmer teams, Military Free Fall (MFF) teams to conduct HALO infiltrations, demolition team to use advanced demolition and incendiary techniques and air defense teams to provide limited self defense capability against air attack. (Walter Sokalowski, USASOC PAO)



After a HALO jump, this Ranger is in process of getting his M4A1 into action. (courtesy of 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment)



High altitude low opening (HALO) parachute operations are performed by Rangers assigned to the Regimental Reconnaissance Detachment. (Fred Pushies)

Tank Bustin' Ranger Style



The Carl Gustav 84mm recoilless rifle is also called the Ranger Anti-Armor Weapon (RAAW). The Carl Gustav is both popular around the world and combat proven. It is more than a suitable replacement for the venerable M67 90mm recoilless rifle that had served the Rangers for many years.



The Ranger Anti-Armor Weapon. It is a breech-loaded weapon and weighs about 33 pounds. A well-trained team can fire up to six rounds per minute. In addition the Rangers use M136 AT-4 single-use anti-tank rockets and Javelin "fire and forget" anti-tank guided missiles (ATGM). Also, Rangers are skilled at the use of the Stinger man portable air defense system (MANPADS).



These Ranger mortarmen are on parade with their 81mm mortars. They provide the regiment with accurate high angle fire support. They also jump with these mortars.



This Gustav team sends a round down range. Note the smoke emitting from the rear of the weapon. The Ranger firing the Gustav is wearing his M17A1 protective mask. They also train to fight in a Nuclear, Chemical and Biological (NBC) environment. (courtesy of 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment)

Commo



Different levels of communications in use by the Rangers.



A pair of radios used by the Rangers at a small unit level.



Rangers use SATCOM or satellite communications. They are equipped with a wide variety of communications gear for use at different levels from the squad to battalion level and higher.



A full front view of a modern day US Army Ranger, a sophisticated, highly trained and motivated, lethal weapon. This Ranger is armed with the M4A1 SOPMOD carbine and a cut down folding stock Remington 870 pump action shotgun. When not in use the shotgun hangs from the Rangers load bearing equipment on a "D" ring. Note the hard plastic kneepads worn by this Ranger.



This Ranger mounts his SOPMOD M4A1 Carbine to his shoulder. This M4 has been fitted with a Beta C-Mag 100 round double drum magazine. The C-Mag holds 50 rounds on either side of the magazine well and feeds rounds alternately from each drum as the weapon is fired.



This Ranger demonstrates the proper method of breaching a door with specially made 12-gauge powdered lead breaching rounds. Shotgun breaching is a very fast way to gain entry in both military and police operations.



The venerable Remington 870. It has been chopped to suit the requirements of the Rangers. These pump-action shotguns are used to shoot the locks off doors when making a rapid or dynamic entry.



The ultimate door key, the Remington 870 shotgun modified for use by the Rangers.



The Ranger medium machine-gun, the M240B.



The M240B medium machine gun is a superior improvement over the M60. It is gas operated tipping bolt design machine gun based on Fabrique Nationale's MAG design. The M240 is fitted with an AN/PEQ2 laser designator. This Ranger is still wearing some highly modified ALICE load bearing equipment.



Moving out after roping in, this M240B team moves out to set up a base of fire to support their fellow Rangers assaulting an airfield. A machine gun team consists of a gunner, assistant gunner and ammunition bearer.



In the prone position with the M240B machine gun. The M240B is vastly superior to the M60 in many aspects and the Rangers are glad to have this combat proven medium machine gun in their inventory.



The M240B medium machine-gun on a tripod.



The M240B medium machine gun fitted with a thermal imager.



A Ranger M240B medium machine gun team lay down a withering barrage of fire. Note the Picatinny rail on top of the weapon, which allows a variety of optics and aiming devices to be attached.



Part of a machine gun team, this Ranger is ready to sprint to his team's next firing position.



The M2 or "Ma Deuce" .50 caliber heavy machine-gun. Normally these are mounted on the RSOV, but the RSOV crews train to quickly take them off the RSOV and deploy them away from the vehicle on a tripod like the one in this picture.



The M240B has replaced the M60 as the medium machine gun in the United States Army. The M240B is known in Great Britain as the GPMG or General Purpose Machine Gun. This new weapon is license produced in the US by Fabrique National Manufacturing Incorporated.



The Ranger Squad Automatic Weapon (SAW). Rangers have the freedom to modify their weapons to suit their individual needs, preferences and missions. Ranger armorers are highly skilled at their craft in order to create and provide the necessary modifications.



This Ranger is armed with a SAW. The TA01NSN ACOG is a 4x32 combat scope with a tritium-illuminated reticle for use at night or low light conditions. On the top of the ACOG is an emergency ramp front sight and ghost ring rear sight, in case the scope gets damaged.



This Ranger peers through the ACOG (Advanced Combat Optical Gunsight) of his Squad Automatic Weapon. Nomex flyer's gloves are very popular among Rangers because they are lightweight and flame retardant. They wear them out very quickly.



Here a Ranger peers through the 4x32 ACOG scope that is part of the SOPMOD program. All SAWs have a Picatinny Rail on the upper receiver to mount a variety of optics such as the ACOG.

A Ranger charging his SAW with blanks prior to a fast rope exercises, known as elevators. The M249 SAW entered US Army service in 1982. However, the Ranger's SAW have been heavily modified with short barrels and collapsible stocks among other things.



Walking off the range with a spent assault pack in his hand, this Ranger is ready to do it again.



The SAW is a key weapon in the Ranger arsenal. The green plastic magazine, also called an assault pack, carries 200 rounds of linked 56mm ammunition. The SAW features the TA01NSN 4x32 ACOG scope.



The Rangers have heavily modified this M249 SAW for use. Currently SOCOM is actively searching for a new light machine gun (LMG) specifically designed to suit the needs of US special operations forces.



This SAW features a full-length barrel and a collapsible stock. He appears to be firing this SAW from his “weak” shoulder a difficult task, but one that must be mastered nonetheless. All Ranger weapons are equipped with either the AN/PEQ-2 or the PAQ-4A laser aiming devices.



A SAW armed Ranger. Note the green plastic assault pack on the weapon. An AN/PEQ-2 is fitted to this SAW. Also this SAW is equipped with an Insight Technologies Visible Light Illuminator (VLI), which gives the Ranger high intensity white light source. The VLI mounts and dismounts on all MIL-STD 1913 interfaces (that is the technical name for the Picatinny rail system).



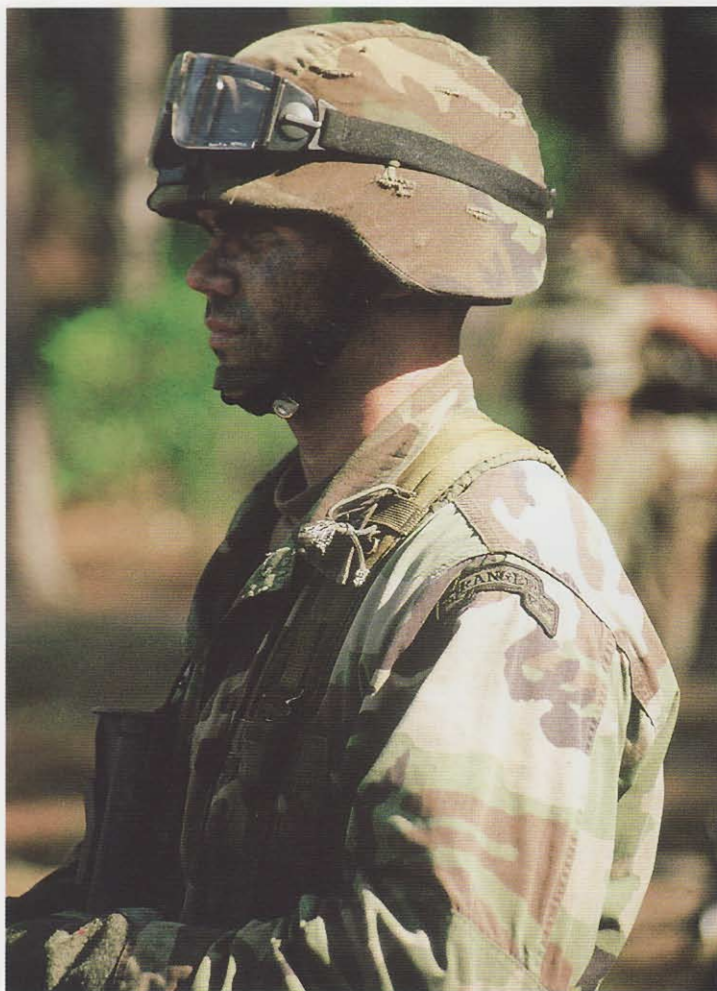
After running through a stress fire shooting course that involves dragging a 200 pound dummy then running through a series of different shooting stages, this Ranger gives his head a break and dons his soft patrol cap.



Peering over the top of his M4 this Ranger is ready to unleash some deadly accurate rifle fire. Bolle T800 tactical goggles are an example of how the Ranger Regiment has the flexibility and authority to procure commercial gear outside of the normal Army supply channels.



This combat experienced Ranger wears his Kevlar helmet. Part of the PASGT or Personal Armor System, Ground Troops system, Rangers hope to replace it with a more lightweight ballistic helmet in the future. He has a strobe light fastened to the shoulder straps of his load bearing harness.



The shoulder sleeve insignia (SSI) on this Ranger is from the 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment also known as the Imperial Rangers. He also wears the Bolle T800 ballistic goggles.



The grim face of determination. Rangers take their training very seriously. More sweat and less blood is the modus operandi of their training. Note Bolle goggles and mounting bracket for AN/PVS-7 night vision goggles.

Adjusting his "K-pot", this Ranger is wearing ALICE gear that has been modified to suit his needs. He is also wearing the Ranger Body Armor. It protects a 10" x 12" area of vital organs in the front torso with a plate of aluminum oxide ceramic tile.



A Ranger captain. Officers in the Regiment lead from the front, go where the Rangers go and do what they do. This captain has earned the senior parachutists badge, air assault wings and the coveted expert infantry badge (EIB).



The look of the face of this Ranger says it all. He wears the RACK (Ranger Assault Carrying Kit) as well as the Bolle tactical goggles. He has a strobe light attached to the shoulder strap of his load bearing equipment. The RACK can be configured for grenadiers and SAW gunners.



This Ranger takes a break from a rigorous training schedule. Note the kneepads that are very popular with Rangers to protect their knees. He also wears a pair of “combat” eyeglasses that feature an elastic head band and rubber frame.

The Camelbak, a hands-free hydration system are standard issue to the Rangers. Unlike hip flopping canteens, Camelbaks are worn on the body (the most efficient place to carry liquids) or on a pack and are silent, as they don’t slosh around.





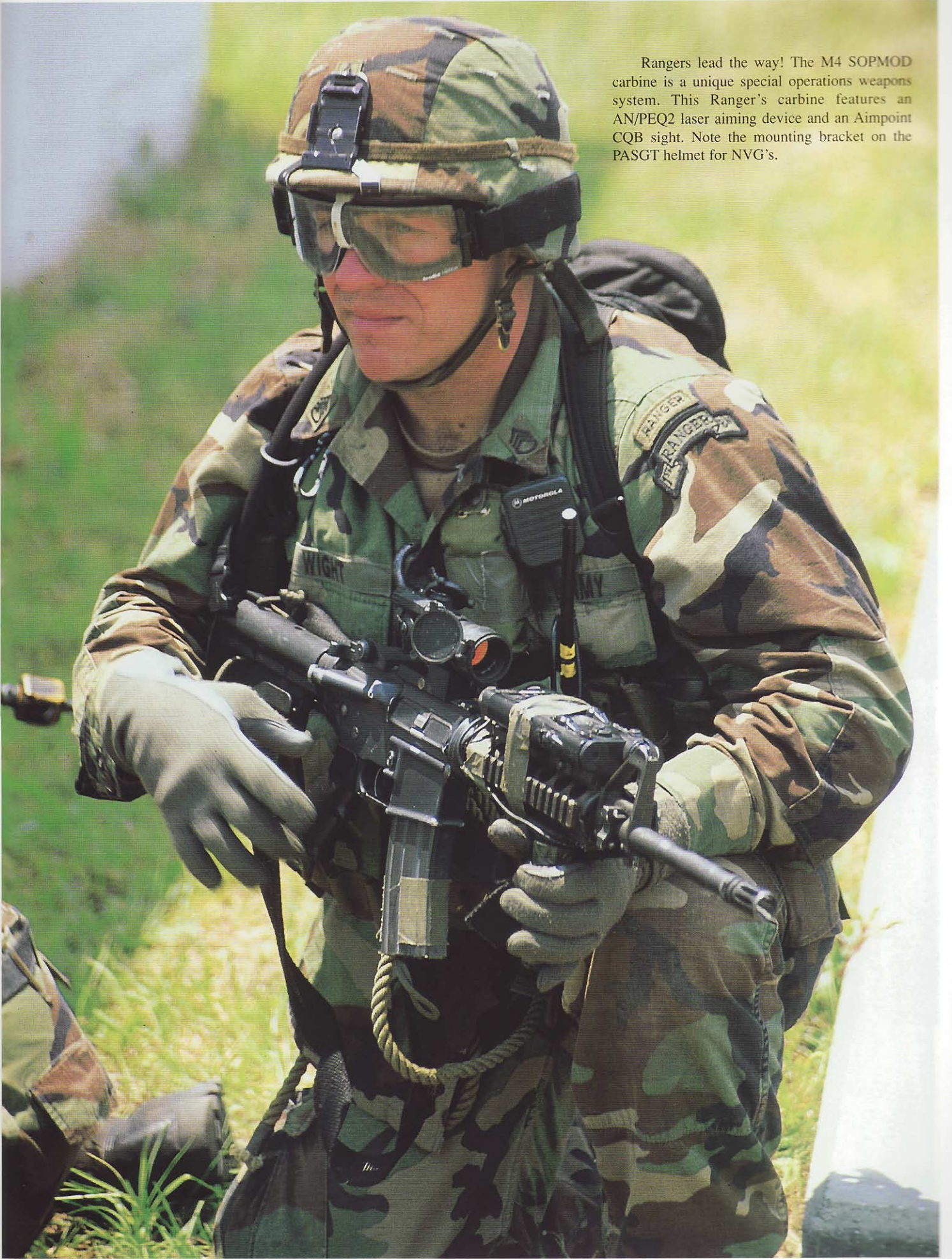
This Ranger non-commissioned officer (NCO) wears the RACK. The RACK keeps the spare magazines, radios, grenades and other mission essential gear close at hand and to the body. This is replacing the standard ALICE load bearing gear. The Chinese with their rig to carry AK-47 magazines on the chest introduced the idea of a chest rig. The Rhodesians and South Africans during their brush fire wars perfected the idea. British soldiers learned quickly in the urban environment of Northern Ireland that chest rigs are an efficient way to basic war fighting gear.



Holding two artillery simulators, this Ranger gets ready for a training exercise. The Ranger Regiment is the Army's primary force used in direct action missions, such as airfield seizures.



This three-day assault pack is stuffed full with the latest communications gear. Assault packs are also used by machine gun teams to tote several thousand linked 7.62mm rounds for the M240G.

A full-page photograph of a soldier in camouflage uniform and helmet, holding an M4 SOPMOD carbine. The soldier is wearing a helmet with a mounting bracket for NVG's, goggles, and a Motorola radio. The carbine has an AN/PEQ2 laser aiming device and an Aimpoint CQB sight. The soldier's name tag reads "WIGHT".

Rangers lead the way! The M4 SOPMOD carbine is a unique special operations weapons system. This Ranger's carbine features an AN/PEQ2 laser aiming device and an Aimpoint CQB sight. Note the mounting bracket on the PASGT helmet for NVG's.



The M4 armed Ranger is on board a RSOV ready for action. RSOV's can be used for a variety of missions such as moving security teams quickly to roadblock sites or other objectives when securing airports. The RSOV features a diesel engine as well as a standard transmission.



Close quarter's battle or CQB is something the Rangers train at continually as it is a perishable skill. They must be able to distinguish between friend and foe. Being able to identify and engage the threat all while moving is a learned martial art. Here a Ranger engages a target with his Aimpoint equipped M4 carbine.



Sporting a "high and tight" this Ranger is in the process of "camming-up" for a nighttime assault. All exposed areas of flesh are covered in camouflage cream.



Wearing a woodland camouflage patrol cap, this Ranger is in the prone position with his M4. His M4 is fitted with an AN/PEQ2, M68 Aimpoint, vertical foregrip, Sure-Fire 6-volt tactical light. The AN/PEQ2 is an infrared target pointer/illuminator/aiming laser (IPITAL) dual beam laser device.



The M4 SOPMOD carbine equipped with the M28 Aimpoint sight. The M4A1 features a removable carrying handle under which is a "flat top" that allows it to mount a number of optical sights depending on the role whether day or night.

Tucked into the prone position behind a large pine tree. Note the 30 round magazine that has a piece of bicycle inner tube around it to prevent it from banging against other magazines in the carrying pouch. Rangers are experts at noise and light discipline, which mean being able to move through the night without being seen or heard.



This Ranger is armed with a M4A1 carbine with an M203 single shot grenade launcher. He is wearing the old ALICE (All-purpose Lightweight Individual Carrying Equipment) "Y" shoulder straps with ammo pouches. He also wears the Ranger Body Armor (RBA).



A great shot of a Ranger "running and gunning" with his M4. The M4 has a heavy barrel that has a slight step in the barrel diameter roughly midway between the muzzle and front sight. The step is so that the M203 grenade launcher can be mounted on the M4 with no modifications on either weapon.



Here a Ranger zeros his M4A1 carbine with a laser assisted zeroing device. These units allow Rangers to zero their weapons quickly and accurately without actually having to go to the range and fire them.



This Ranger lets a burst loose with his M4 carbine. He is using his M68 Aimpoint to score lethal hits on the target. The M68 sight is a non-telescopic reflex sight. It uses a red "dot" or aiming reference and is designed to be used with both eyes open. The both eyes open shooting method allows for quick target acquisition with high hit probability.



This Ranger is busy "firing up" a target with his M4A1 carbine. Note the Camelbak hydration system and the "catseyes" sewn to the camouflage helmet cover.

ALICE load bearing gear is still in use by some Rangers. Note the "high and tight" haircuts that are favored by the Rangers. This is a very low maintenance hairstyle.

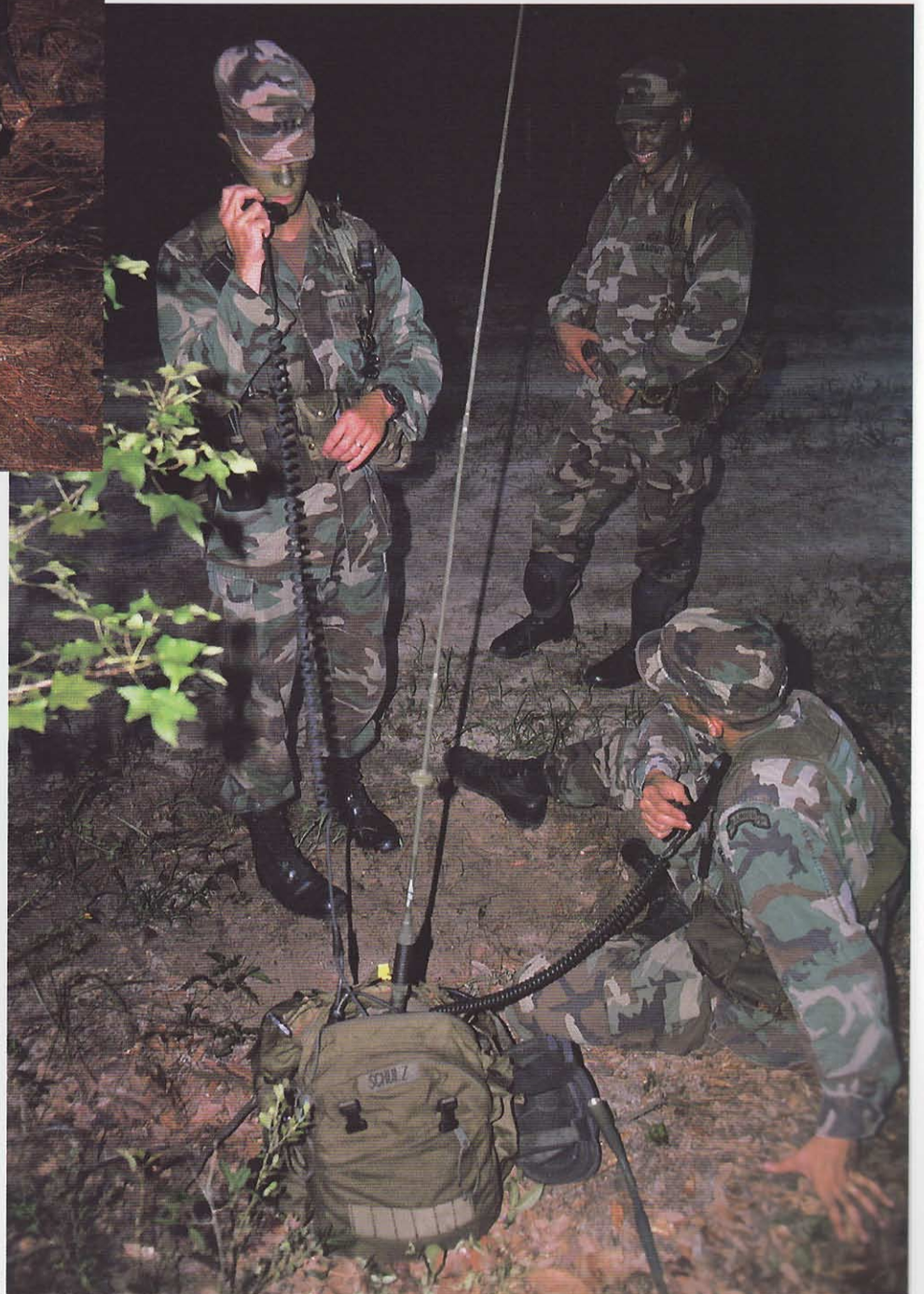


This Ranger is equipped with a M4/M203 combination. He wears a load-bearing vest specifically designed for the grenadier. This vest allows the grenadier to carry 24 40mm grenades for his M203. In fact the M79 "blooper" single shot 40mm grenade launcher has just been re-introduced in numbers to the Regiment. It is more accurate than the M203.

This Ranger is armed with the M4/M203 SOPMOD carbine combination. On October 3, 1993, Rangers conducted a daring daylight raid with 1st SFOD Delta in which several Night Stalker helicopters were shot down. For nearly 18 hours, the Rangers delivered devastating firepower, killing an estimated 600 Somalis in what many have called the fiercest ground combat since Vietnam. Six Rangers paid the supreme sacrifice in accomplishing their mission.



A Ranger on patrol readies his large sized ALICE pack for the next move. Note the luminous tape sewn to the back of the pack. These "catseyes" as they are known help Rangers keep their place in formation when moving at night.



Here a Ranger captain confers over the radio with another element during a recent training mission. The backpack in which the radios are carried is manufactured by London Bridge Trading Company and is an issue item to all Rangers.



Taking a knee with his SAW, this Ranger waits to board a MH-47L. All Rangers are certified basic combat lifesavers. This training includes learning how to start and IV. They practice "sticking" each other during the course.

Here a Ranger peers through the Aimpoint Comp M close quarter battle sight mounted on the top of his M4 carbine. The M4A1 is standard issue in the Regiment. Rangers train to shoot with both eyes open to maximize depth perception and peripheral vision.



A close-up of a SOPMOD M4 in the expert hands of a US Army Ranger. SOPMOD stands for Special Operations Peculiar Modification. In February of 1994, the US Special Operations Command placed the initial order for 5,000 to 6,000 M4A1 Carbines.



Hunkered down, firing around a corner, these Rangers are training for an airfield seizure mission. Rangers past and present are a tight knit community and enjoy getting together at annual events such as the Ranger Rendezvous.



This beret clad Ranger peers through the latest generation of thermal imaging devices.

"Silence is golden." Pictured here is a MP5SD and a suppressed CAR15. Note the compact size of the MP5. Although not in use presently by Rangers, MP5's were used in the past by Rangers assigned to Building Clearing Team's (BCT). (Fred Pushies)





This Ranger shows off some of the finer points of their new Ranger Body Armor (RBA). The RBA is a two-part system: a flexible vest and rigid plate front and back. The heart of the RBA is the eight-pound ceramic upgrade plate. With this plate inserted it protects the front torso against 5.56mm and 7.62mm rounds. Total weight with plates: 16 pounds.

Taking a break with his M16, the Ranger waits to head to M14-47L. All Rangers are trained to be combat divers. This training includes



More gear that you might find in a Ranger's rucksack. Rangers are equipped with some of the best equipment available. They can go outside the normal Army supply chain to purchase high tech gear such as modern sleeping bags and medical equipment. (Fred Pushies)



A typical 80-pound load out for a Ranger's rucksack. Kevlar helmet, load bearing equipment and other sundry equipment is shown. Also shown is the famous or infamous Meal-Ready-to-Eat or MRE. The MRE is constantly under development to improve taste, nutrition and the adaptability with the changing times. (Fred Pushies)



Scuba equipment as used by the Rangers. Note the waterproof rucksack next to the diving tanks. (Fred Pushies)

